

To: Mr. Richard L. O'Connell

July 18, 1974

the objectionable discharges will be eliminated. Time and time again throughout the country, businesses and governmental agencies have relied on extensions and delaying tactics in order to avoid compliance.

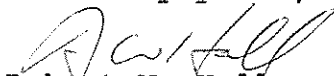
We believe that public hearings are desirable and necessary in order to emphasize strong feelings on the part of the community that delaying tactics should not be permitted. It is our intention to widely publicize the hearings on these permits. We believe that you will find strong feeling within the community toward elimination of these discharges.

I happen to be a member of the Small Boat Harbors Advisory Commission. This subject was taken up at the last meeting of the Commission and strong emphasis was placed on the need to eliminate discharges of the type that you propose to allow through these permits. There is no way our harbors and beaches can have clean water without the elimination of these discharges.

Hawaii is uniquely dependent upon tourism as a major industry. Approximately two years ago, this State suffered the humiliation of having photographs of a water pollution sign ordered by the Department of Health at Keehi Lagoon with Diamond Head in the background, widely distributed on an international basis through the wire services. The pollution in Keehi Lagoon is caused by the same type of discharges that the Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to allow through the permits.

Your letter suggests that the public and the State of Hawaii does not have a significant degree of interest in water pollution. The only means that the public has had of knowing about permits is through the classified section of the Honolulu newspapers. The type of public notice required by law is simply not read by the average person, and the language and format of these notices is awkward and difficult to read. While the agency has complied with the law, the type of public notice that your agency is presently using is simply not adequate from the common sense point of view. A much simpler, clearer statement is needed if the public is to be given adequate notice. In short, the reason that you have not had more complaints or requests for public hearings is simply that no one really knows what is happening. How many of your friends and neighbors routinely read these notices? We request that public hearings be held, and that your agency work with the citizens of this State as the law has intended.

Sincerely yours,



Robert W. Hall

Chairman - Air, Water and Noise Pollution Committee

RWH/pv